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ABC and CIA. American Legal Foundation has asked U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington to direct FCC to conduct investigation into what ("Closed Circuit," Jan. 20) ALF says were "deceptive broadcasts" by ABC News regarding Central Intelligence Agency. ALF, conservatively oriented public interest law firm, contends ABC was guilty of news distortion and suppression, as well as violation of fairness doctrine, in series of two reports on *World News Tonight*, in September 1984. Reports claimed CIA had used now defunct banking firm in Hawaii operated by one Ronald Rewald as cover for "foreign and domestic operations." Second report contained interviews with Rewald and one Scott Barnes regarding CIA's alleged effort to use Barnes to kill Rewald. ABC, after strong protests from CIA, acknowledged that allegations of murder plot could not be supported, but it did not back down from other elements of story. CIA and then ALF filed complaints with commission; commission rejected both without requesting ABC to respond to them. Commission said it was being asked "to second-guess the journalistic judgment and editorial workings of ABC News"—which it declined to do. In seeking review of commission action, ALF said it had presented "detailed information revealing that ABC deliberately deceived the public." It also said commission's refusal to investigate was based on "misinterpretation" of its own distortion/suppression precedent and on "crabbed reading of the 'controversiality' test governing fairness doctrine complaints." ALF said court should reverse commission order and direct agency to conduct investigation to insure public's First Amendment rights are safeguarded.